

Visit to the past helps former prisoners bury painful memories

By Wil Grey
Deseret News staff writer 11-10-88

SALINA, Sevier County — For two former German prisoners of war, memories of their confinement in a Utah POW camp haven't dimmed much in 43 years.

"It was like lightning from heaven," recalled Karl Altkruger as he reflected back 43 years to the night of July 8, 1945. "There was simply no reason for the shooting."

Altkruger has reason to remember that night in Salina. He still walks with a cane, a daily reminder of the wounds he received during a 15-second burst of machine gun fire that sprayed 250 rounds into the tents of sleeping German prisoners shortly after midnight.

Nine German prisoners died and 19 others were wounded during the shooting, which occurred nearly two months after the end of World War II in Europe. While the war with Japan still raged in the Pacific, the war with Germany was supposedly over.

Altkruger and Herbert Barkhoff, another former POW, returned to Utah this week with their wives and Wednesday toured the Salina prison camp site where they were wounded. Their visit was part of a living history tour sponsored by the Utah Historical Society. The two former prisoners will participate Sunday in the rededication of a memorial monument at the Fort Douglas cemetery where the nine dead prisoners are buried.

Memories remain bittersweet. Altkruger said his memories of Utah are not good because of the suffering caused by his wounds. But, he reflects, there were others more seri-



ously wounded and there were nine who did not make the trip home.

Barkhoff recalls, "Even during that night of horror, when I looked up and saw Bertucci's (the American guard who fired the gun) face frozen in the searchlight of the tower, I did not experience any anger or resentment against him. To this day I have continued to hope that the Lord would give him strength

Please see SALINA on B

Herbert Barkhoff, above, with a German Air Force officer, points to a familiar spot in the Salina camp. At right, Barkhoff puts flowers on the grave of the doctor who treated him.

PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY McKELLAR



Low Temperatures
Forecast for 6 a.m. Friday

FORECAST

SALT LAKE CITY, OGDEN, PROVO — Cloudy, 60% chance p.m. showers. NW wind 10-15 mph. Highs 45-50. Low 30s.

UTAH — Partly cloudy p.m. rain or snow. Snow level 5,500 ft. Highs 60s. Low 30-44.

NEVADA — Cloudy, chance rain or snow north. Partly cloudy, cooler south. Highs 40-54 no. 60-75 so. Lows 25-35 no. 40-50 so.

IDAHO — Valley fog, increasing clouds, showers mixed with snow statewide. Highs 30-49 no. 35-45 so. Lows 25-35 no. 20s so.

WYOMING — P.M. snow advisory NW mountains. Mostly cloudy, cooler statewide. Highs 35-45. Lows 5-15 We., 20-30 ea.

3 TO 5 DAY UTAH FORECAST — Partly cloudy Saturday. Increasing clouds, windy, Sunday. Windy, colder rain or snow Monday. Highs 50s, warming to 55-65. Lows 25-39.

SUN — Sunrise tomorrow, 7:09 a.m. MDT. Sunset 5:15 p.m. Day is: 10 hours 6 min.

MOON PHASES

			
New	1st ¼	Full	Last ¼
Dec 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Dec 1

AIR QUALITY

Good to excellent

People with ailments should reduce outdoor activity when values are above 100.

City readings	Pollutant	Highest value
Salt Lake City	Ozone	31
Bountiful	Ozone	37
Ogden	CO	19
Provo	CO	29
Magna	SO ₂	14

TRAVEL + LEISURE

Great Salt L., Utah L.: Cloudy, chance of showers. Temps. 45-50. Low 30s.

Bear L., Flaming Gorge, Strawberry: Cloudy, showers. Wind 10-20. Temp 35-40.

Canyonlands, Lake Powell: Cloudy, wind 10-15 mph. Temp. 60s. Low 40s.

Zion Nat'l Park: Cloudy and breezy. Few showers. Temp. 60s. Low 40s.

THE RECORD

COMPARATIVE TEMPERATURES —

Yesterday high/low	50/39
Mean	45
Normal	42
A year ago high/low	62/36
All-time high for November	75
All-time low for November	-14

PRECIPITATION —

Precipitation for November	.61
Departure from normal	+.25
Since Oct. 1, 1988	.62
Departure from normal	— .88
Percent of normal	.41%

POLLEN COUNT

counts. Count of 50 or more — close windows. (Courtesy, Intermountain Allergy and Asthma Clinic.)

Source	Count	Source	Count
Grass smut	15		
Molds	84		
Mugwort	5		

Wendover	45	37		
NATIONAL				
	Max	Lo	Pr.	Sky
Albuquerque	65	38		cdy
Atlanta	66	57		clr
Boise	45	38	.03	cdy
Boston	57	40		cdy
Casper	35	16	.04	cdy
Cheyenne	47	20	.01	cdy
Chicago	50	42	1.39	clr
Dallas	85	50		r'n
Denver	52	23		cdy
Detroit	50	44	.81	cdy
Fairbanks	18	04		s'n
Honolulu	87	78		clr
Las Vegas	73	52		cdy
Los Angeles	70	54		clr
Miami	78	75		cdy
New Orleans	81	63		cdy
New York	55	45		clr
Phoenix	79	61		cdy
Pittsburgh	53	47		cdy
Portland	50	46	.42	r'n
Reno	51	43		cdy
St. Louis	67	44	.74	cdy
San Diego	68	55		cdy
San Francisco	66	50	.10	cdy
Seattle	54	45	.33	r'n
Spokane	39	36		cdy
Washington DC	60	43		clr
W Yellowstone	41	08		

Warmest: 93 McAllen, TX
Coldest: 8 W. Yellowstone, MT

INTERNATIONAL

City	Sky	Time	F	C
Amsterdam	cdy	1 pm	56	13
Auckland	cdy	mdnt	64	18
Beijing	clr	8 pm	46	8
Berlin	clr	1 pm	42	6
Cairo	ptcl	2 pm	69	21
Calgary	ptcl	9 am	19	—7
Geneva	cdy	1 pm	50	10
Montreal	wind	9 am	43	—6
Hong Kong	cdy	8 pm	65	19
Jerusalem	rain	2 pm	59	15
Lisbon	cdy	1 pm	63	17
London	cdy	1 pm	59	15
Manila	ptcl	8 pm	82	28
Moscow	ptcl	3 pm	22	—5
Paris	cdy	1 pm	58	14
Rome	cdy	1 pm	58	15
Seoul	ptcl	9 pm	40	4
Tokyo	clr	9 pm	57	14

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OREM
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225-7750

